

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 16935 082314Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T PARIS 16935

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR US VN FR
SUBJ: US/VN RELATIONS: FRENCH VIEWS

1. DURING ONE OF PERIODIC CONVERSATIONS WITH QUAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA DOPFFER JUNE 8, EMBOFF PROVIDED
HIM WITH THE TEXT OF THE HOLBROOKE AND PHAN HIEN
REMARKS TO THE PRESS JUNE 3. DOPFFER SAID THAT HE HAD
SEEN PHAN HIEN JUNE 6 AND HAD BEEN GIVEN STANDARD
HANOI LINE ON THE US OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE AID. PHAN
HIEN ALSO SAID THAT THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING
DEPENDS ON THE US; IT COULD BE IN EITHER JULY OR
SEPTEMBER. PHAN HIEN WILL SEE "HIS COUNTERPART"
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TAITTINGER
WITHIN A FEW DAYS, BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE IN
ABOUT A WEEK'S TIME. IF PHAN HIEN GIVES TAITTINGER
ANY FURTHER INSIGHT INTO VIETNAMESE INTENTIONS, DOPFFER
SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW.

2. THE FRENCH WERE NOT SURPRISED THAT THE VIETNAMESE
HAD ADOPTED SUCH A FIRM POSITION ON US "COMPENSATION".
NGUYEN CO THACH HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID THAT WHILE THE SRV
WAS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN FORM, IT WOULD
ALSO BE FIRM ON SUBSTANCE. HANOI IS PREPARED TO WAIT
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50 YEARS IF NECESSARY TO GET WHAT IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

3. THE FRENCH WERE A BIT CONFUSED AS TO WHY PHAN HIEN
WAS REMAINING IN FRANCE SO LONG. IT WAS ALSO PECULIAR
THAT VU HOANG, ALSO AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL,
SHOULD HAVE REMAINED STEADILY IN FRANCE SINCE LATE
APRIL. THE FRENCH SPECULATED THAT THE US MIGHT BE

HAVING FURTHER, SECRET CONTACTS WITH THE VIETNAMESE OR
THAT THE VIETNAMESE WERE DEALING WITH SOME OTHER COUNTRY
HERE, PERHAPS THE GERMANS.

4. THE FRENCH THOUGHT THAT THE VIETNAMESE, WHILE
STICKING FIRMLY TO THEIR POSITION ON US AID, WERE
CLEARLY SHOWING THEMSELVES TO BE RELAXED AND AMIABLE.
THE FRENCH THOUGHT THEY MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE ON THE
DEFENSIVE BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN THE US WHICH TOOK THE
INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING TALKS AND HAD DROPPED
UNILATERALLY ITS UN VETO. THE FRENCH THOUGHT THE
VIETNAMESE WISHED TO APPEAR AS FORTHCOMING AS THE US
AND TO DEPRIVE THE US OF ANY "MONOPOLY" ON APPEARANCE OF
GOOD WILL.
GAMMON

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